

The Holy Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. X

12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 91352

JUNE 2008

School Receives Six Year Term

By Karinina Cruz and
Maciel Luna
Staff Writer

The results from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) are in.

Poly is fully accredited.

The WASC committee members were pleased to present Poly a six year term of accreditation with a mid term review.

"We earned it and we demonstrated what a strong school we are and that we offer many academic, athletic, and extra curricular activities," said Poly Assistant Principal Jay Kirschner. "We know the committee was impressed with us because we truly are an impressive school."

The WASC committee came to Poly for a four-day visit on April 4th to evaluate the school's overall status.

The visiting committee was impressed with Poly's action plan, which included the school's strong points and the areas that need to be improved.

"The Commission is confident that your continuing efforts to

[WASC on Page 2]



Photo by Tatiana Tejada

IN CHARGE: Devon Richter (above) and AP Ari Bennet were responsible for making sure Poly was prepared for the WASC visit.



Photo by Ivan Verdin

WALK, DON'T WALK: Poly teachers walked out on Friday June 6, 2008 to protest the proposed budget cuts in education. Teachers signed in an hour late to show their disapproval of the estimated \$4.8 billion in education cuts.

Teachers Take Action

By Christian Banuelos and
Julissa Delgado
Staff Writers

A majority of Poly teachers marched in front of the school Friday morning instead of teaching first period to protest the education budget cuts ordered by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The protest at Poly was part of a coordinated UTLA effort by the union president A.J. Duffy to have LAUSD teachers demonstrate their disapproval of the cuts by signing in an hour late.

"At some schools, 100% of teachers participated," said UTLA area chair Linda Gordon.

Schwarzenegger is asking for \$4.8 billion in education cuts to reduce the state's deficit. LAUSD's share of the cuts is estimated at \$353 million.

"We wanted to be heard not only in the school district, but in the governor's office," said Gordon.

Poly's off-track teachers,

school counselors and coordinators also marched and carried signs, cheered on by the horns of passing cars and trucks.

The Los Angeles Times reported that 36,000 teachers participated in Friday's "job action," but UTLA's Duffy said 40,000 of LAUSD's

[Walk Out on Page 4]

Jesus Florian, 1990-2008

Poly Suffers Tragic Loss

By Jocelyn Portales
Staff Writer

Jesus "Jesse" Florian was shot to death at a house party at 12:20 am on Saturday, May 31st, a block from the Poly campus.

Mr. Arhanian, an English teacher said of his former stu-

dent, "Jesus was a polite and respectful young man. He was the type of student that wanted to turn his life around by turning around his grades. I took it pretty hard. He wanted to graduate and do the best he could in class."

Sgt. Benjamin Trask and Lt. Joe Bale of the Los Angeles

[Florian on Page 3]

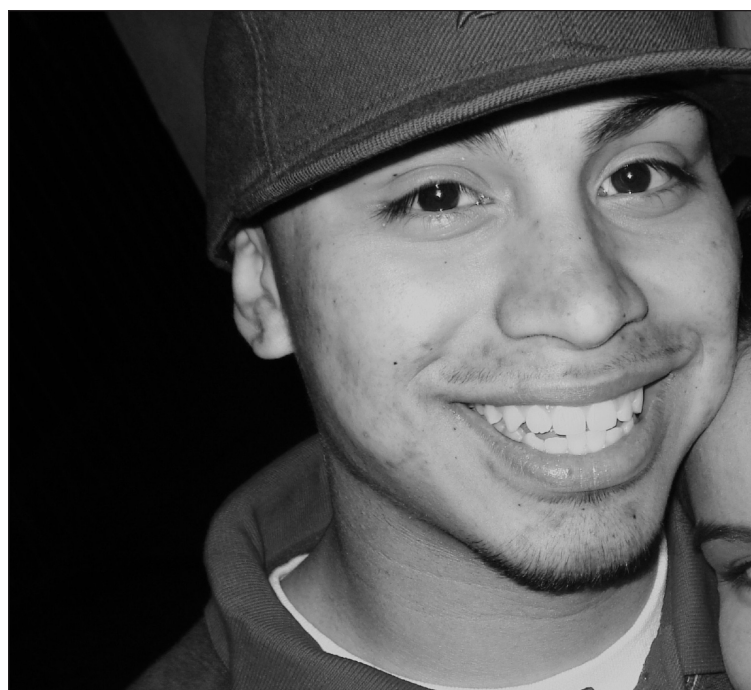


Photo provided by Synthia Molina

PASSED AWAY: 17 year old Poly senior Jesus Florian.

Election 2008 Dilemma Continues

By Julissa Delgado
Staff Writer

This November many seniors will have the opportunity to change the future direction of this country in one of the most significant elections to date.

The first African-American democratic nominee Senator Barack Obama, is running against Republican John McCain the oldest candidate to run for presidential office.

The decision may be tough especially to those strong followers of former candidate Senator Hillary Clinton. Senator Clinton is the first woman to run for office of President.

Clinton said, "Although we weren't able to shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it's got about 18 million cracks in it, and the light is shining through like never before, filling us all with the hope and the sure

knowledge that the path will be a little easier next time."

This election is an inspiration for young women everywhere of every race proving that anything is possible with strength and determination.

Clinton accepted defeat with grace pledging full support to her one time opponent Barack Obama, went on to speak of bringing hope of unity within the party and an opportunity for the Democrats to take the White House in January 2008.

Clinton pledged to do what was best for the party, showing strength after her defeat.

The Democratic Party faces a difficult situation in unifying the party after a tumultuous 16 month long primary season as the support of many voters was divided between Senator Clinton and Senator Obama.

Gun Rights

By Optimist Staff

The right for a person to own a gun has been under barrage of attacks as a result of increasing school shootings and gang related firearm incidents, many involving death.

The critical question is: who has the right to own a gun? The Second Amendment of the United States constitution prohibits the infringement of "the right of the people to bear arms," which means that the government cannot do anything to stop anyone from purchasing and owning guns.

What is the qualification to own a gun? There is a list of things, but the bottom line is that any U.S. citizen over the age of 18 (for rifles) or 21 (for handguns) are able to own a gun as long as they don't have a criminal record, is not under the influence of drugs, and was not dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces.

Although some believe that the requirements are enough, it apparently seems to be lacking in some way, for gang members have practically limitless access to guns as well as minors all

over the country.

Although many agree that the set requirements are not enough, however, no more restrictions can be made in order to prevent people from buying guns.

The truth is that nobody can stop a person without a criminal record from buying a gun and start killing people.

The only answer is to prevent the general public altogether from owning a gun (for excluding only a part of the population would be unconstitutional), so that no gun violence can occur.

Gun rights protection activists may claim that firearms are needed for self-defense and security, but guns would not be necessary for self-protection in a society where nobody else has guns.

The people who should have rights to own guns should be the authorities, and even though it is true that there is a possibility of abuse of those in power, it is better than giving guns to the majority of the population for them to use on their whim as opposed to giving them to the few and qualified government officials.

[WASC from Page 1]

improve the school will be reinforced by prompt attention to the critical areas for follow up within the action plan," said WASC Commission Chair Thomas Beecher.

Poly's hard work and efforts proved to the WASC committee that Poly is indeed a model school.

"I thought it was fantastic that we received our six year accreditation," said Poly English teacher Cheryl Kehrmeier. "It showed the faculty and students' hard work."

Math teacher Devon Richter, along with Assistant Principal Ari Bennett, was in charge of making Poly prepared for the committee visit and was pleased with the results.

"I'm really proud of all the effort everyone at school put forth during the WASC visit," said Richter.

According to the Commission members, Poly's mid-term review must be completed by the end of the third year of the six-year term.

Poly's six-year term of accreditation will expire on June 30th 2014.

THE OPTIMIST

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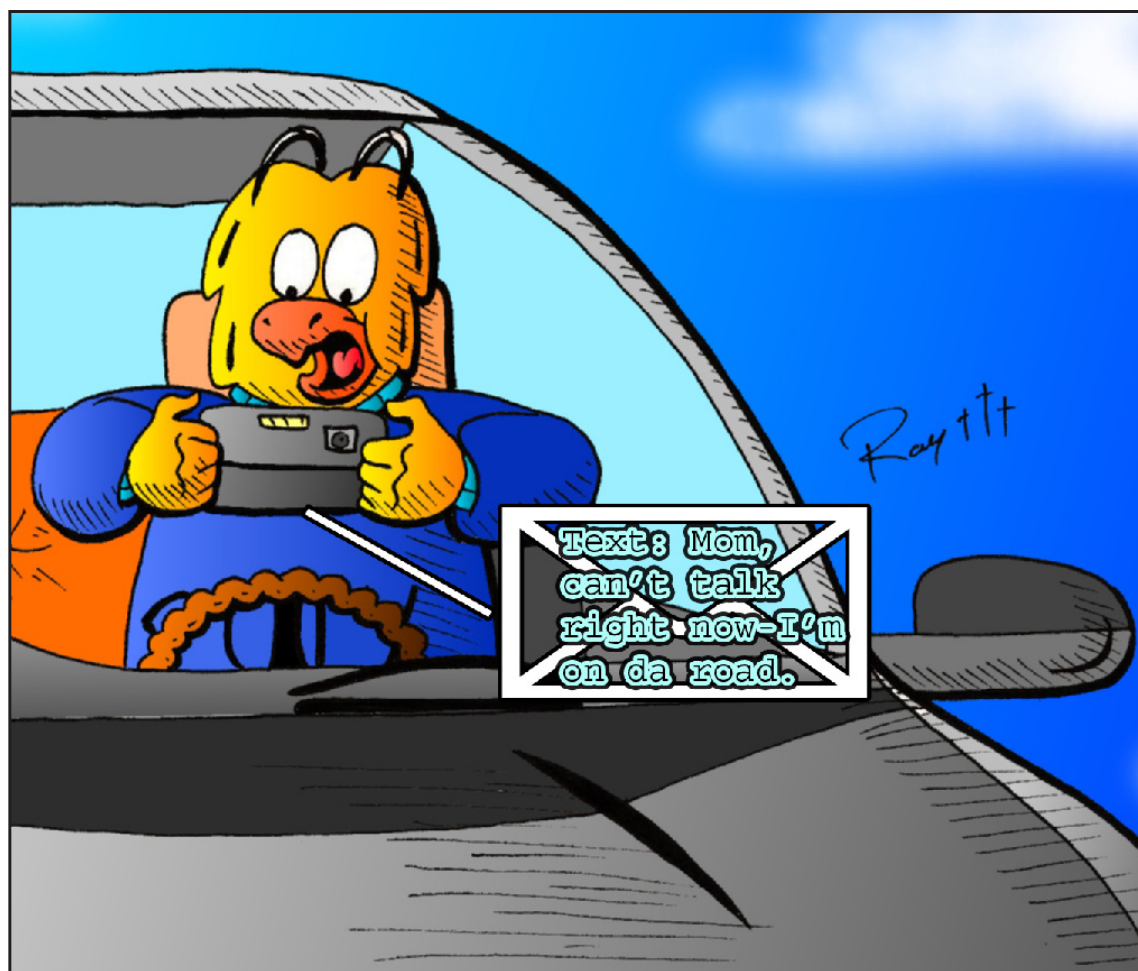
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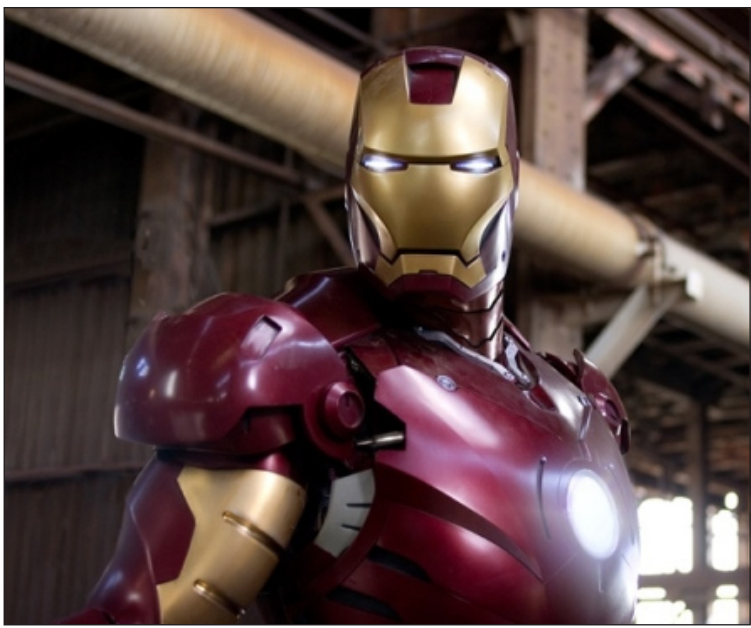
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Letters

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and include the writer's signature. The Optimist reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.11 or Ms. Matlen's box.

New Phone Law by Raymond Carillo





Internet Photo

HEAVY METAL: Robert Downey Jr. dons the Iron Man suit.

I AM IRON MAN

By Mario Solano
Staff Writer

“They say the best weapon is one you never have to fire. I prefer the weapon you only need to fire once. That’s how dad did it, that’s how America does it, and it’s worked out pretty well so far.” – Tony Stark

After much anticipation, “Iron Man,” this year’s biggest super hero made it’s movie debut.

Robert Downey Jr. plays multi-billionaire Tony Stark. After being held captive by terrorists, Stark engages on his pursuit on ridding the world of evil. Thus, Iron Man is born.

The film is more for those who want solid entertainment. There were scenes that would

have the audience laughing while others remain intense and suspenseful. Paramount pictures did an excellent job on the Iron Man suit with computer generated imaging (CGI). “Iron Man” appeared to be realistic. Make sure to stay after the credits as a “special someone” makes a guest appearance.

The movie was “good” but not “great”. The film lacked in action sequences. There were only three action scenes throughout the entire movie. The film focuses more on the origin of the Iron Man suit than the actual use of the suit. A majority of comic book fans may be disappointed. Then again expect to see more action in “Iron Man II.”

JONES IS BACK



Internet Photo

STILL IN ACTION: Indiana Jones is brought back after a 19 year wait to star in the all new movie “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull”.

By Mario Solano
Staff Writer

After nineteen years, Indiana Jones returns for a whole new adventure with a cast of new villains and allies.

Indy returns doing what he does best, kicking butt. This time, Indy isn’t the only person looking for an adventure. Now he has a young, spunky kid named Mutt Williams on his side.

The film has a whole new

twist to the Indiana Jones series. This time Indy isn’t dealing with any grails or large diamonds. Instead Jones is now in the hunt for the crystal skull, before the soviets find it.

However, Indy isn’t the only one looking for the crystal skull. The evil soviets are on the hunt as well. They need Indiana Jones to retrieve this crystal skull. As for Mutt Williams, he is on a search for his lost parents and Jones is the only one that can help. The

duo are off in an adventure full of danger, excitement and suspense.

The film was very entertaining with more than enough action sequences, but a decent storyline to back it up. This film reveals secrets and twists the audience would never expect.

For an old fan or a first time viewer, Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull will please all moviegoers.

Shooting Claims Seniors Life

[Florian from Page 1]

Police Department confirmed that witnesses close to Florian said he died at the scene.

Florian got into an argument with the suspect who Florian would not allow to enter a party.

Florian kept denying the shooter entry and was shot when the suspect opened fire with a handgun on Florian three times.

The shooting was not in any way gang related, witnesses say and this is confirmed by investigators.



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

REMEMBERED: Family and friends set up a memorial for Jesus Florian. Anyone with information about the shooting can contact the NoHo Division of LAPD at (818) 623-4075

The suspect ran away immediately after shooting Florian. Only a sketch of the suspect is available. The search for the suspect is still underway.

Family and friends held A candlelight vigil Saturday night and funeral fundraiser on Monday evening at Football Coach Ziehler’s home..

Florian’s funeral was held on Friday, June 6.

Florian was a C-track senior who was seventeen years old and part of the football team

(#81).

Florian looked forward to graduation in less than a month and attending community college. Florian also was considering joining the military and fight for his country, Eyewitness News reports.

Florian was known for his outgoing personality, dedication to his friends, and his million-dollar smile.

“He really liked football. And he was a loveable person” said Stephanie Osario, Florian’s cousin. “He was a social butterfly.”

Joel Lima, a B-Track senior and close friend of Florian added, “He would do anything for his friends and would always be there whenever you needed him.”

Florian was the oldest of three kids and the pride and joy of the Florian family, reported Eyewitness News.

Anyone with information about the shooting should contact the North Hollywood division of the LAPD at (818)623-4075.



Photo by Ivan Verdin

LOCKED DOWN: Padlocks can be seen on campus.

Closed Campus

By Ivan Verdin & Tatiana Tejada
Staff Writers

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) declared that all high schools within the district must have a “closed campus” policy on September 7, 2001, which included Polytechnic High School.

The policy is meant to discourage anyone from creating disturbances on campus and provide students, parents and staff with a safer environment.

In accordance with these rules, all schools with fences and gates must remain locked at the beginning of class until the end of the school day.

The only entrance into school must be the main gate, with supervision at all times.

Poly students were asked if they knew what a closed campus meant in an informal survey. More than half did not have any knowledge of the policy.

Although Poly is a “closed campus,” many students find leaving school very easy.

“Sometimes when I come in and out of school I don’t find

anyone checking that I have the right to leave or come inside the school, I find it very easy and I have never seen any policies of a closed campus,” stated one student.

Students are supposed to show identification and their schedule to security, in order to leave school grounds.

“It’s instinct—we know who is ditching, and nine out of ten times we will recognize their faces. No one gets past us,” said Poly High School security.

Seniors believe they automatically have the privilege of leaving campus during school hours at any time, but this is not the case.

“The policy applies even to students who are 18 years old, but have not yet graduated,” Poly High School Dean Yesenia Pleitez said.

The consequences of violating the closed campus policy may result in a day of truancy along with a citation of a \$250 fine given by the school police.

“Students next year will be aware of the written closed campus policy,” said Pleitez.

[Walk Out from Page 1]

48,000 teachers marched.

“At one point there was up to 127 Poly faculty union members” said Larry Carstens. “That’s about 70% of Poly’s union members.”

LAUSD filed a petition with the court to stop the protest, citing safety issues with students but the motion was denied because the District couldn’t prove that students would be in danger.

LAUSD officials said teachers who called in sick Friday would need a doctor’s note to get sick

pay. Teachers who marched were docked an hour’s pay.

“Administrators know we’re not against them or Poly, we’re against the budget cuts” said Gordon.

Gordon said the job action was successful in sending a strong message to state legislators.

Budget cuts could result in larger class sizes, teacher lay offs and pay cuts.

“I hope Schwarzenegger will see how negatively he’s impacting the schools and teachers,” said English teacher Gayane Tarakhchyan.

Parrots Serve a Step towards Graduation

By Maciel Luna and Jackie Pena
Staff Writers

Service Learning may be an unknown requirement for many Poly Seniors

This project is an instructional strategy in which students learn and develop through active participation and meaningful service meeting real community needs.

Students do research projects or create pamphlets and brochures highlighting community issues. Pupils will draft letters to their community leaders and elected representatives.

“Students develop projects to enable them to serve community. It’s not work service, students are creating a project that benefit the community” said Poly High School Dean Laura Terri.

This project is attached to the U.S Government class, a mandatory course for graduation. Service Learning is not just a requirement, but also benefits the community

“Service Learning is a part of education and learning,” said Assistant Principal, Jay Kirschner.

Service Learning allows students to learn and become advocates for the community.

“Students absorb problems from the communities, therefore students can help solve their problems,” said Poly government teacher, Dave Hopkins.

Service Learning is a unique course because it enhances academic performance through a sense of civic responsibility and workplace skills.



Photo by Tatiana Tejada

LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE: Rachel Granholm, Jennifer Miranda and Alejandra Lupian.

B-track government teacher Juan Campos said, “Service learning is a way to prove to the community that students can also be involved.”

Not only does this course link with real-life learning skills, but it also fosters civic participation and hard work.

“We want to bring the students attention of the importance of being contributing members of society,” said Kirschner.

Hopkins had his students to do a project on an issue that affects the world. Jennifer Miranda, Alejandra Lupian and Rachel Granholm, three of his senior students, did a project involving donating arts and craft supplies to a children’s afternoon program in Downtown Los Angeles, called Alexandria’s House.

exandria’s House.

Miranda, Lupian and Grandholm wrote letters and distributed them to big stores like Ralph’s, Michael’s, Costco, Payless Foods, and discount stores asking for donations donating numerous amounts of supplies to Alexandria’s House.

“Helping Alexandria’s House receive Arts and craft supplies for the children made us feel good inside because I knew we made a difference in their lives,” said Lupian.

This project allows participating students to not only collaborate with their community, but to reflect on whether they achieved their goal. Social science teachers ultimately must evaluate and assess the student’s work.

STD’S Can Happen

By Gabriela Burciaga
Staff Writer

The Center for Disease Control report that more than 3 million teens are infected with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

STDs are equal opportunity diseases.

STDs can happen to anyone at anytime that they have unprotected sex. Youth ages 15- 24, have the highest rates of sexually transmitted disease for sexually active teenagers will contract an STD and are not aware of these possible consequences of sexual intercourse.

Both genders are at a high risk of getting STDs however, females are more likely not to show any

symptoms.

“Adolescent young women should get vaccinated for the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus), the most common viral STD,” said Wolfson.

It’s crucial for young people to find a trusted adult, a parent, teacher or medical professional that teenagers can talk to about sex.

“Adolescents need to learn how to communicate about sex with their partner and make sure that they are not being pressured,” said Wolfson.

Many teenagers take sexual risks and assume that “bad things” such as STDs or pregnancy cannot happen to them.

“Education is key. It’s not that

teenagers ignore the facts about STDs, it’s just that students are misinformed,” Wolfson said.

Education is needed in order for adolescents to make right choices in their sexual lives and to reduce the number of people with STDs.

Valley Teen Clinic offers the vaccination against HPV (Human Papillomavirus) free, for young women. They also provide free and confidential birth control, pregnancy, and STD testing including HIV. For more information contact Ms. Wolfson at room 306 periods one and four, or put a note in her box in the Freshmen Center.

Senior Edition

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. X

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SENIOR EDITION, JUNE 2008

Principals' Remarks to the Class of 2008

Congratulations to the **Class of 2008, the Majestics**, on all of your outstanding accomplishments over the last 4 years at Polytechnic High School.

Whether or not you realize it right now, the education you have received here at John H. Francis Polytechnic High School has prepared you to pursue your own ambitions and dreams without losing sight of the invaluable difference you can make in this world.

By graduating from this great high school, you have reached a stepping-stone in your life, a place where you can pause for a moment and enjoy the luxury and joy of looking back on the distance you have covered.

But the thing about stepping-stones is that you always need to find another one up there ahead of you. Even if it is panicky in midstream, there is no going back. The next move is always the test.

So our simple wish for you in the future is that the next stepping-stone will always be in your sight. Go forward and take that first step onto the first stepping-stone. If you follow the 5 Ways to Live and Grow with Optimism it will make each step easier.

-Gerardo Loera &
Dr. Janis Fries-Martinez



POLY PARROTS: Interim Principal Gerardo Loera and Principal Dr. Janis Fries-Martinez.

5 Ways to Live and Grow with Optimism

1. Learn everyday
 - a. new experiences
 - b. from people you admire, and those you don't
 2. Work hard with passion
 - a. put in effort to get results
 - b. find your dream job
 3. Keep an open mind
 - a. listen to other views and opinions
 - b. question respectfully
 4. Solve tough problems
 - a. take on problems, even when the solution isn't obvious
 - b. make a commitment to find the answers
 5. Actively practice resilience
 - a. change comes quickly around the corner
 - b. take mistakes in stride; learn from them
- Come back and visit Poly, often.
We will miss each of you!

Teacher Shoutouts

I'd like to congratulate our 1st graduating FAME class. You've brought pride and honor to our school. Also, a special thank you to my animation seniors! You're the best!!

-Mrs. Worle

Class of 2008. I'll cry at your graduation. I will just miss you so much. Love you a lot.

-Ms. Martin

My recipe for success: 1 cup of motivation mixed with a cup of college education will make your future a real sensation. I'll miss you!

-Mrs. Beilinson

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,

Thou canst not then be false to any man.

William Shakespeare – Hamlet

-Mrs. Carnovsky

To the Class of 2008: If you can keep your head when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,

Or being hated don't give way to hating,

And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;

If you can think- and not make thoughts your aim
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it...

-Excerpt from *IF* by Rudyard Kipling

-Ms. Matlen

Life is no brief candle to me. It's a sort of splendid torch which we have got a hold of for the moment, and we must make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to the future generations. – George Bernard Shaw
Blessings to the class of 2008.

Ms. Heilbron

[Shout Outs on Page 7]

A New Beginning

By Jocelyn Portales

The human being can be compared to butterflies in terms of the transition from youth to adulthood. As students in the Class of 2008, we all went through a metamorphosis transforming throughout the four years from a child to a young adult, we graduated from middle school to high school and transformed. When we graduated from middle school, we were excited to finally start doing “teenager” things like party and prom.

High school is where

we found ourselves and developed into young adults ready to face the world and conquer it by storm.

I remember the first time I stepped foot on Poly’s campus. I was so scared because the campus was so big!

I had no confidence whatsoever and felt like someone was going to pick on me since I was small and a newbie.

However, now as a senior, I feel that experience only made me stronger. My confidence I continued to

flourish.

The world is tough and cruel as I have learned with my friend passing away.

But, I feel the environment of friends and teachers I had at Poly HS made me stronger and helped me move through a tough time.

The most memories however remain at the spot where I hung out at the polygon. I met many of my friends at the Polygon and that is where many events took place, like the introduction of the new Joe parrot, Poly idol, Power 106, Battle of the Bands, and my favorite, the auctioning of the athletes.

I spent the majority of my senior year with the Poly Optimist. I will miss the Poly Optimist so much! I also remember the several times I goofed around and cracked jokes, watched stupid things on the internet, and the many parties we had in here. But most of all the pressures of taking out a newspaper. Especially, Mrs. Matlen. I would like the opportunity to say to Mrs. Matlen thank you for being there for me and being my guardian angel throughout high school and Thank You for helping me through my college process and preparing for many life situations to come.

Now we are all going our separate ways. Some are going off to college, others to different states or cities, moving states or cities, traveling, but what we can share and remember the great times we had together.

This is where I found myself. This is where I made unforgettable friendships and memories. This is where I grew up and where I left a part of my heart at.

I am proud to say that I am in the Class of 2008 and that I am a Poly Parrot for life, and I know leaving here is the beginning of many great things to come.

Editor’s Notes

By Fernando Marquez

Well there they go. Four of the most precious years of our lives have just gone by and it seems like the first day of high school was only yesterday.

Leaving high school is something I’ve been waiting for the past four years but now it seems like it’s something I dread. I guess in reality I really am going to miss this place.

Poly is a place unlike any other. Maybe it’s not the best place in the world but it’s the place where we’ve spent our last four years of our lives living, learning, and growing.

As soon as you step in through the gates you can feel the hustle and bustle of school life. You go to your classes you hang out with your friends at your favorite spots. But little do you realize that all that will end. Now with more experience and wisdom you can really value and cherish those little moments you’ve had with your buddies, from the smallest inside jokes to the things the entire campus can laugh about. All in all people make some of their most memorable moments within a classroom at Poly.

As a freshman at school I really didn’t think much about school. I had a blast goofing off with friends and getting on my teachers nerves. Although it was fun for a while the thought that I would have to leave this place at some point or another sunk in. I knew that I had to make the most out of everything while I was still here. I had to go somewhere after high school.

And so I began to focus on my studies and met some pretty incredible teachers along the way. These teachers played a big part in motivating me to do well in school and get to college. They gave me advice when I needed it and they became friends as well.

They helped me believe that I could make a difference in the world.

In addition to these teachers being in the newspaper staff also helped me grow and become a more mature and professional person.

I started off as a reporter who only had taken the class because of an elective requirement. I didn’t expect much of the class or of the work I would soon undertake. Little did I know that I would play an integral part of the school paper. I got to be editor in chief for three years in a row! How cool was that I thought to myself. Now I’ve grown because of the position I had been put in. I had to interact with people I hardly even knew in order to get the paper working smoothly. The funniest thing of all was that I always ended up having fun with everybody I met no matter what I was doing.

Working on the newspaper staff has always been for me at least, 50% joking around, 40% eating and 10% work. It will always be having the computer crash right before going to press. I will always remember getting summonsed out of my other classes to work on the paper. It will always be ordering a couple of pizzas after you’re finished, kicking back and enjoying the paper that you made. It will always be a lasting memory.

I got to meet some really interesting people, many of whom I wish the best for. I’ve learned some fascinating things about the world, other people, and most surprisingly, myself.

Congratulations class of 2008, we finally did it!!!!

Sunrise, Sunset

By Daisy De La Cruz

After many sunrises and sunsets, stressful homework nights and crazy football games my flight, as a Poly parrot will soon come to an end. We entered this chapter of our life very shy and timid, since we had approached a new and unknown territory. A chapter that will soon culminate, with a very strong and confident young adult ready to take on the next phase of life.

Looking back years from now I will remember many things that made high school not only an obligation but also roller coaster experience filled with many twists and turns, ups and downs.

As I went from Algebra to Physics and from mester 4 to mester 5, I met new people that eventually turned into new friends that taught me many things and made me laugh when I was feeling down. I met many teachers who watched me grow from the loud obnoxious teen I once was to the goal setting, college bound student I have become.

Who would have imagined that day I got in trouble in Mrs. Matlen’s 11th grade English class for talking too much and not paying attention, I will be writing a senior reflection

for her awesome journalism class today. I am thankful for my poly teachers who showed me that I had potential to achieve many great things and teach me not only academic lessons but life worthy ones as well. Ms. Murray, Mr. Higgins, and Mr. Cuevas are some of the teachers Poly gave me the opportunity to meet and turn to for guidance when the road would get bumpy.

Being involved in the Poly community was one the best things I did as a Poly Parrot. I felt the school spirit come alive in me as I joined the many clubs I did. From student council to cooking club, these are some of the clubs that made me a very proud active Poly parrot that tried to make a difference in school, a second home that I will soon be leaving.

Honored as the 2007 homecoming queen along with my best friend who was crowned homecoming king, was a once in a lifetime privilege to represent Poly’s school spirit and of course the class of 2008.

As the curtains fall on the class of 2008, I wish everyone the best of luck in the years to come and look forward to see you all in our high school reunion.

Away From Home

By Julissa Delgado

As much as I complain about coming to Poly as of a result of my undeniable laziness and what some might call "senioritis" I will miss Poly.

Excited as I am to begin the next chapter of my life, it is difficult to accept that next year I will not be back.

Poly has been more like an adoptive mother to me. I often fail to realize how much time I actually spend at Poly. I spent from 8 to 13 hours a day here (on game days), and although it didn't feed me very well, the lessons I learned have been endless. I don't mean the ones learned only in class, because I think many of us know that not every class we walked into we learned what we were supposed to. The most important lessons I learned however, I learned from my classmates, friends, teammates, boyfriends, and ex-boyfriends.

My knowledge of history and ability to write papers is undeniably valuable to my future and essential for the next step in my educational career. I am thankful to those teachers like Mr. Morillo, Mr. Kowalski, and Ms. Matlen who gave me an opportunity to fall in love with writing and reading; however what I most cherish from Poly is the opportunity it gave me to understand myself.

You can get an education anywhere, but learning the value of my self-worth, my capabilities, my independence, my strength and my intelligence is a result of those who have surrounded me throughout high school.

The gates and brick walls around Poly are what protect us from "the real world," the

scary truth that we prepare for each and everyday in here.

When I first arrived at Poly, like every other ninth grader I tried to find a place to fit into, feel accepted, and found comfort no place else than with the people that knew me the best: Jazmine, Jenny and Erik.

I was soon able to get out of my comfort zone and try different things, and do those I always wanted to but was too scared to do before, like become a cheerleader, a tennis player (not a very good one but I tried), Homecoming princess, and now a high school journalist. Poly helped me love myself through my failures whether they were heartbreaks, or disappointments. It helped me realize that I am not perfect, no one is.

My ambition has made me want to seek challenges academically, giving me the opportunity to grow and mature. I would not be the confident young woman that I am today without the challenges I faced here. Poly nurtured me, and when there were times a boy or a difficult paper made me feel like I didn't even want to get up in the morning, the fear of surpassing those annoying 16 absences forced me to get up and face my problems with bed head. Those irritating tardy sweeps taught me responsibility, and unknown areas around campus to hide and avoid the deans. It has given me countless memories, with my extended family.

Poly will always be part of me and I can only hope that it can give my younger brother Uriel, and all those Parrots who follow, a similar experience.

[Teacher Shout Outs from Page 5]

"Todo es hermoso y constante, todo es musica y razon, y todo como el diamante, antes que luz es carbon." – Jose Marti
Thank you, Ms. Bonar

Valedictorians 2008

Juan Carlos Fuentes
Perry Nga
Oscar H Flores
Ivan R. Morales
Cindy C Velasquez
Myong Mark Kim
Edwin Carmona
Shantall May Medina
Laura Mariel Solano
Michelle Desiree Aguila

SENIOR COUNCIL 2008

Student Senior Council is created by students and sponsored by Ms. Pak. The council is in charge of numerous events for seniors including Prom, Graduation Night, Senior Dinner, and the cap and gown colors for the graduating class.

-By Jocelyn Portales

This years senior council accomplished alot as a group and I am very proud of them They organized several events such as prom, senior dinner, and many other events held outside and inside of Poly. Being the sponsor of this years seniors was wonderful and had a great experience woring them. They are every diligent. "

Ms. Pak

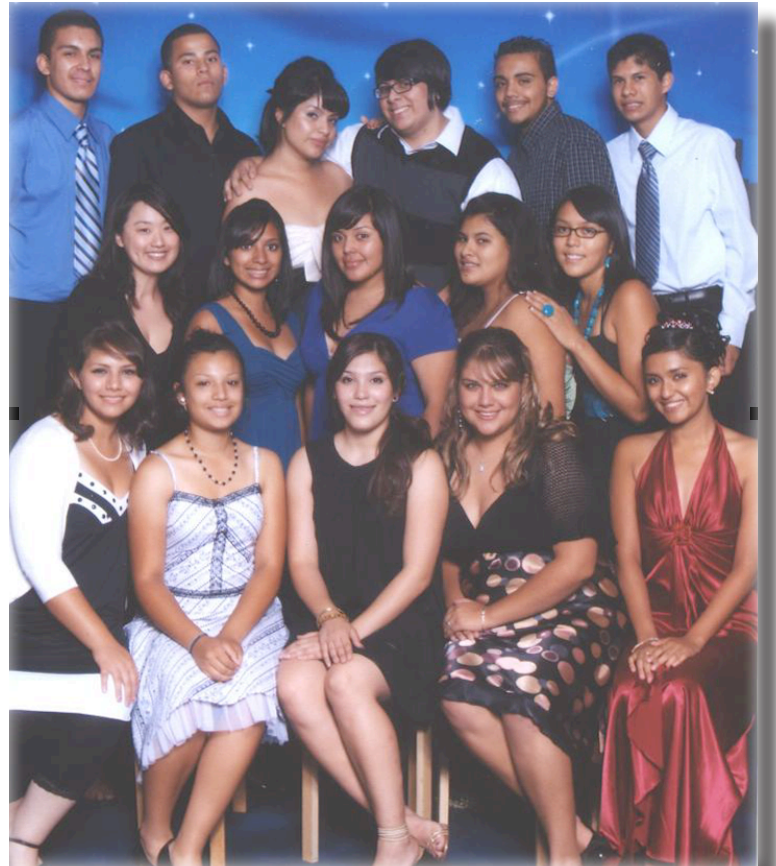


Photo provided by Senior Council

Dancing Under the Wings of History

By Jocelyn Portales
Staff Writer

582 Poly seniors enjoyed the glamorous life at this years' prom at the Ronald Reagan Library in Simi Valley.

Many arrived in limos wearing beautiful gowns and tuxedos. Students made a grand entrance with the hall surround by a solid glass wall. The library houses Air Force One, limos, and other vehicles used by the past five presidents.

Students danced

under the wings of Air Force One and enjoyed the spectacular scenery of the mountains, three floors of entertainment, a live dj, caricature drawing and plenty of photo-ops.

This years' theme was "Fly Away with Me". The global theme was integrated with passports issued as tickets for entry.

Andrea Guevara and Victor Aguilar were crowned Prom Queen and King.



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

ROYALTY: Prom King Victor Agiular and Prom Queen Andrea Guevara.

PLACES TO GO

CSU's

CSUN

Carla Aguilar
Ujala Ali
Natalie Alvarez
David Andrade
Julio Aquino
Michael Araujo
Adriana Avalos
Alejandra Avalos
Diana Avalos
Jennifer Avalos
Jose Avendano
Andrea Barrera
Cindy Barragan
Rafael Barragan
Edgar Barron
Joanna Benitez
Stephanie Berumen
Nancy Bugarin
Julio Cano
Sarahi Caratachea
Claudia Carcamo
Anthony Carreno
Demise Carrera
Gabriella Carrera
Raymond Carrilo
Amanda Casareo
Virginia Chavarin
Wendy Cibrian
Illiana Cifuentes
Ignacio Cisneros
Rosemary Cuevas
Daisy De La Cruz
Candy De Loera
Juan Delgado
Julissa Delgado
Ana Diaz
Erick Diaz
Daisy Dominguez
Rafael Escalante
Jose Escobedo
Carlos Flores
Cindy Flores
Jose Flores
Lissette Flores
Alejandra Gallardo
Andrew Garcia
Gustavo Garcia
Beatriz George
Jessica Giacoletti
Christian Gomez
Kevin Gomez
Alex Gonzalez
Benito Gonzalez
Deisi Gonzalez
Michelle Gonzalez
Rosella Gonzalez
Vanessa Gonzalez
Victor Gonzalez
Jessica Guerra
Jocelyn Guillen
Nathan Gutierrez
Bernardo Guzman
Steven Guzman
Jorge Heredia
Angelica Hernandez
Carol Hernandez
Claudia Hernandez
Maria Hernandez
Esteban Jauregui
Gary Laguna
Brian Larin
Evelyn Lemus
Joel Lemus
Stephanie Leon
Fleet Lewis III
Jonathan Linares
Pricilla Lopez

Nhung Luu
Liset Manzo
Gabriella Marquez
Migdahlia Marquez
Sara Martinez
Shantall Medina
Michelle Mejia
Rebeca Mejia
Albert Mendoza
Hazel Miguel
Lynda Morales
Lara Nieves
Roy Nolasco
Susana Nunez
Nataly Nuno
Janeth Ocampo
Evan Olade
Lizet Ortega
Faride Perez
Passaraporn Pimmarleeja
Jocelyn Portales
Cynthia Quijas
Laura Quintero
Paula Quiroz
Christian Resendiz
Jessica Reyes
Melissa Rivera
Pedro Rivera
Veronica Rivera
Luis Rodriguez
Veronica Rodriguez
Evelyn Romero
Catherine Rosales
Luis Rosales Esquivel
Elizabeth Salas
Adelina Sandoval
Yulianna Sandoval
Meri Sarkisyan
Edward Small
Laura Solano
Mario Solano
Oscar Soriano
Francisco Tadeo
Tatiana Tejada
Mardiory Grace Tolentino
Victor Tzic
Brenda Vega
Karen Vega
Delia Villa
Jaime Villamil
Elmore Villanueva
Gabriel Viramontes

CAL STATE LOS ANGELES

Carla Aguilar
Ujala Ali
Natalie Alvarez
Edward Araujo
Karina Arevalo
Alejandra Avalos
Jennifer Avalos
Rafael Barragan
Andrea Barrera
Edgar Barron
Joanna Benitez
Melinda Bernal
Stephanie Berumen
Julio Cano
Sarahi Caratachea
Anthony Carreno
Gabriella Carrera
Lee Castaneda
Juan Ceja
Amanda Cesareo
Wendy Cibrian
Rosemary Cuevas
Michael De Jesus
Julissa Delgado
Ana Diaz
Daisy Dominguez

Rafael Escalante
Carlos Flores
Alejandra Gallardo
Gustavo Garcia
Beatriz George
Deisi Gonzalez
Michelle Gonzalez
Victor Gonzalez
Jocelyn Guillen
Jorge Heredia
Maria Hernandez
Tracy Hernandez
Patsy Hernandez
Patsy Herrera
Angie Hildalgo
Esteban Jauregui
Priscilla Lopez
Liset Manzo
Gabriella Marquez
Rebecca Mejia
Albert Mendoza
Stephanie Meza
Laura Nieves
Roy Nolasco
Janeth Ocampo
Lizet Ortega
Faride Perez
Maryuri Perez
Passaraporn Pimmarleeja
Jocelyn Portales
Adrienne Powdrill
Laura Quintero
Paula Quiroz
Jessica Reyes
Melissa Y. Rivera
Catherine Rosales
Leslie Sandoval
Edward Small
Laura Solano
Mario Solano
Tatiana Tejada
Victor Tzic
Arlyn Vasquez
Brenda Vega
Edsel Velasco
Nancy Velasquez
Simon Zeihler

CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO

Wendy Cibrian
Juan Avendano

CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Alejandra Avalos
Edgar Barron
Joanna Benitez
Nancy Bugarin
Julio Cano
Sarahi Caratachea
Anthony Carreno
Gabriella Carrera
Lee Castaneda
Eugenia Chicas
Domingue Duke
Alejandra Gallardo
Gustavo Garcia
Deisi Gonzalez
Carol Hernandez
Edith Jaramillo
Samiah Kazem
Gary Laguna
Liset Manzo
Gabriella Marquez
Emily Montellano
Sandra Moza
Yesenia Navarrete
Janeth Ocampo
Maryuri Perez

Passaraporn Pimmarleeja
Adrienne Powdrill
Melissa Rivera
Evelyn Romero
Adelina Sandoval
Arlyn Vasquez
Nancy Velasquez
Jennifer Zaragoza

CAL POLY

POMONA

Fernando Marquez
Cindy Barragan
Wendy Cibrian
Edward Small
Jennifer Zaragoza

CAL STATE FRESNO

Dusit Aongart
Edward Small
Deisi Gonzalez

CAL STATE CHICO

Jackie Portillo
Juan Avendano

CAL STATE LONG BEACH

Andrea Barrera
Claudia Hernandez
Wendy Cibrian
Esteban Jauregui
Pedro Rivera

CAL STATE SACRAMENTO

Alejandra Gallardo

CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY

Jocelyn Portales
Tatiana Tejada

SAN DIEGO STATE

Lizet Ortega
Jocelyn Portales
Bernardo Guzman

CAL STATE FULLERTON

Melissa Y. Rivera
Denise Carrera
Bernardo Guzman
Edward Small
Deisi Gonzalez
Edgar Barron
Pedro Rivera

UC's

UC MERCED

Adam Aguirre
Jennifer Avalos
Edwin Carmona
Juan Ceja
Michael Dejesus
Cindy Flores
Maria Gaona
Alexander Gonzalez
Esmeralda Gutierrez
Jennifer Hagan
Brian Larin
Stephanie Leon
Yvette Manzano
Emily Monterrosa
Lizet Ortega
Christian Resendiz
Maria Reyes

Victor Tzic
Jaime Villamil
Yvette Manzano
Cindy Monterrosa
Juan Avendano
UC IRVINE

Justine Mamaril
Ryan Barnoya
Karen Aguilar
Adriana Esquivel
Fernando Marquez
Rimon Elkobeid
Egor Maleko
Shantall Medina
Gabriela Marquez
Laura Solano
Veronica Rodriguez
Alejandra Gallardo
Evelyn Romero

UC RIVERSIDE

Justine Mamaril
David Quiroz
Jasmin Umana
Melissa Y. Rivera
Andrea Barrera
Angelica Ceja
Cindy Barragan
Karen Aguilar
Adriana Esquivel
Candy De Loera
Wendy Cibrian
Maria Gaona
Claudia Carcamo
Jennifer Avalos
Rimon Elkobeid
Egor Maleko
Bernardo Guzman
Passaraporn Pimmarleeja
Mark Kim
Yvette Manzano
Gabriel Viramontes
Gabriela Marquez
Jennifer Zaragoza
Stephanie Leon
Nataly Nuno
Cindy Monterrosa
Laura Solano
Juan Avendano
Alejandra Gallardo
Cindy Flores
Erick Diaz
Alex Gonzalez
Evelyn Romero
Edsel Velasco
Jackie Ayerdi
Christian Gomez
Edwin Diaz
Migdahlia Marquez

UC SANTA BARBARA

Chynna Raymundo
David Quiroz
Michelle Gonzalez
Jennifer Zaragoza
Karen Aguilar
Adriana Esquivel
Jasmin Umana
Andrea Barrera
Cindy Velasquez
Cindy Barragan
Smbat Defterderian
Candy De Loera
Michelle Aguila
Juan Fuentes
Egor Maleko
Mark Kim
Yvette Manzano
Gabriel Viramontes

PEOPLE TO MEET

Ivan Morales
Daniel Lopez
Araceli Arqueta
Juan Ceja
Veronica Rodriguez
Christian Resendiz
Evelyn Romero
Edsel Velasco
Jessica Reyes
Edwin Diaz
Jackie Ayerdi
Christian Gomez

UC SANTA CRUZ

Justine Mamaril
David Quiroz
Melissa Y. Rivera
Lizet Ortega
Angelica Ceja
Karen Aguilar
Adriana Esquivel
Jennifer Zaragoza
Candy De Loera
Egor Maleko
Yvette Manzano
Stephani Leon
Nataly Nuno
Cindy Monterrosa
Araceli Arqueta
Veronica Rodriguez
Jessica Reyes
Edwin Diaz

UC BERKELEY

Karen Aguilar
Michelle Gonzalez
Leonel Ramirez
Michelle Aguila
Jonathan De Paz
Jonas Calderon
Miriam Gonzalez
Yvette Manzano
Perry Nga
Juan Fuentes
Evelyn Romero
Gabriel Viramontes
Daniel Lopez
Shantall Medina
Laura Solano
Araceli Arqueta

UC DAVIS

Michelle Gonzalez
Leonel Ramirez
Jasmin Umana
Fernando Marquez
Candy De Loera
Egor Maleko
Julissa Delgado
Shantall Medina
Jocelyn Portales
Kyle Abrigo
Edwin Carmona
Daniel Lopez
Cindy Monterrosa
Cindy Flores
Alex Gonzalez
Christian Resendiz

UCLA

Michelle Gonzalez
Karen Aguilar
Adriana Esquivel
Jasmin Umana
Cindy Velasquez
Cindy Barragan
Smbat Defterderian
Ryan Barnoya
Michelle Aguila
Rimon Elkobeid
Juan Fuentes
Shantall Medina
Yvette Manzano

Gabriel Viramontes
Gabriela Marquez
Laura Solano
Araceli Arqueta
Jasmine Brizuela
Jonas Calderon
Oscar Flores
Heidi Garcia
Perry Nga
German Polanco
Paula Quiroz

UC SAN DIEGO

Michelle Aguila
Karen Aguilar
Araceli Arqueta
Jenniffer Avalos
Jackie Ayerdi
Cindy Barragan
Ryan Barnoya
Jasmin Brizuela
Edwin Carmona
Angelica Ceja
Juan Ceja
Rosemary Cuevas
Daisy De La Cruz
Candy De Loera
Smbat Defterderian
Adriana Esquivel
Oscar Flores
Juan Fuentes
Heidi Garcia
Christian Gomez
Miriam Gonzales
Esmeralda Gutierrez
Mark Kim
Daniel Lopez
Egor Maleko
Yvette Manzano
Fernando Marquez
Ivan Morales
Perry Nga
German Polanco
Jocelyn Portales
Dazzvid Quiroz
Chynna Raymundo
Evelyn Romero
Cindy Velasquez
Jasmin Umana

Private Universities

HARVARD

Perry Nga

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Juan Fuentes
Perry Nga

COLUMBIA

Juan Fuentes

BOSTON UNIV.

Karen Aguilar
Michelle Aguila
German Polanco

STANFORD

Perry Nga

BOSTON COLLEGE

Cindy Velasquez
Juan Fuentes

SCRIPPS COLLEGE

Adriana Esquivel

JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Jonas Calderon
Oscar Flores

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Perla Hernandez

MOUNT ST. MARY'S

Justine Mamaril
Elizabeth Rosales
Jocelyn Portales
Denise Carrera
Rosemary Cuevas

NYU

Michelle Aguila

BRANDEIS UNIV.

Michelle Aguila
Jonas Calderon

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

Jocelyn Portales

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

Angelica Ceja

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

La-Lonnie Backman

YALE

Perry Nga
Juan Fuentes

MIT

Perry Nga
Juan Fuentes

DARTMOUTH

Perry Nga
Oscar Flores
Michelle Aguila
Juan Fuentes
Jonas Calderon

LAWRENCE UNIV.

Cindy Velasquez

VANDERBILT UNIV.

Michelle Aguila

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Michelle Aguila
Juan Fuentes

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Alan Giron
Oscar Flores

CORNELL

Juan Fuentes

ST. LOUIS UNIV.

Edgar Barron

ST. JOHN'S UNIV.

Maria Gaona

BROWN

Michelle Aguila
Oscar Flores

FASHION INSTITUTE OF DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING

Rachael Granholm

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Cindy Velasquez

Community College

Marvin M. Abraham
Jairo Aguirre
Miguel Alas
Lorrie M. Aldana
Jose Alfaro
Antonio Alvarez
Gloria Andrade
Irvin Aruaje
Angelia Arguelles
Joanna Arias
Dalila Arroyo
Ernesto Arteaga
Shirley Arteaga
Gino Nicholas Asinas
Ana Avendano
Melody Avila
Karen Avila
Alejandro Ayala
Veronica Banuelos
Lesly Barajas
Ivan Barragan
Gabriela Barreras
Shirley Barrios
Adolfo Benitez
Jessica Bias
Stephanie Buenrostro
Andy Caballero
Maria Cabral
Rosa Camey
Victor Cano
Frank Cardenas
Jose Cardona
Ruben Carias
Itzel Carrera
Andrea Castaneda
Lee Castaneda
Gerardo Castillo
Beatriz Castro
Yaomarie Cervantes
Jennifer Chaidez
Virginia Chavarin
Jessica Chavez
Ignacio Cisneros
Darrel Cole
Luis Collazo
Lizet Contreras
Christian Corcio
Oliver Corpeno
Eliel Corral
Michelle Cruz
Jamnicha Dailey
Hugo Devora
Maria Diaz
Mariana Dominguez
Billy Elizarraga
Raul Esquirrel
Alonso Figueroa
Jose Figueroa
Carolina Flores
Osmara Flores
Oscar Jimenez
Plato John
Helen Jovel
Jessica Juarez
Jose Juarez
Parmeet Kaur
Samiah Kazem
Michael Kroell
Ramaer Lazo

Tania Leiva
Juvena Leon
Fleet Lewis III
Manuel Lico
Joel Lima
Edgar Lopez
Margarita Lopez
Miriam Lopez
Enrique Lopez
Alejandra Lupian
Adolfo Macias
Johanna Magana
Magaly Mares
Alexandra Martinez
Julio Martinez
Ana Karen Martinez
Tracey Martinez
Jennifer Martinez
Raul Martinez
Crystal Martinez
Grace Mayorga
Michael McPhilipps
Jose Medina
Luis Medina
Christian Mejicanos
Noe Mena
Nestor Mendez
Jesus Mendoza
Carmina Meneces
Ronald Menendez
Alfredo Meza
Jaime Mier
Hazel Miguel
Jennifer Miranda
Stephanie Montalvan
Ismael Moreno
Pedro Moreno
Lori Moreno
Walter Munoz
Erika Murcia
Gracie Murillo
Yesenia Navarrete
Alexandra Negrette
Laura Nieves
Manuel Nunez
Erik Oliva
Vaudree Ortega
Melissa Ostarga
Miguel Ortero
Fidel Paez
Michael Pascarelli
Adriana Paz
Javier Perez
Liliana Perez
Marisol Perez
Brenda Perez
Rodrigo Perez
Luis Pimienta
Annette Pineda
Mirsa Pirir
David Posadas
Cynthia Quijas
Carlos Ramirez
Valeria Ramos
Carlos Ramos
James Reed
Maria Reyes
Japril Reynoso
Jean Rivera
Genesis Robles
Jacqueline Rodriguez
Juan Rodriguez
Alberto Rodriguez

Senior Sports Profiles

By Daniel Jimenez

Gustavo Garcia



Gustavo Garcia, starting pitcher for Poly played a big part in the Parrots' 11-4 league record this season. Garcia's best outing came in the biggest stage the Parrots performed on: the playoffs versus a proven Chatsworth team. Garcia threw a complete game, allowed only 1 run on two hits, but the Parrots came up short on the offensive end and lost 1-0. The Parrot pitcher plans on attending Glendale College and transferring to a Div-1 school, preferably Cal State Fullerton to continue playing baseball.

Carol Hernandez



Carol Hernandez, the starting center fielder for the Lady Parrots, helped the team reach the Invitational semifinals with a team leading 9 stolen bases and was second in batting average (.491), hits (27) and runs (21). She played all four years under Coach Peralta, and in this, her senior year, Hernandez was selected to the City All-Star game, the first invitation a Poly softball player has gotten in three years. Hernandez is planning to attend Cal State Long beach and continue playing softball.

Alex Gonzalez



Alex Gonzalez, starting shooting guard for Head Coach Dave Bonino was second in the team in scoring averaging 8.9 points per game, with a career high 25 points versus Canoga Park at home. Gonzalez remembers a playoff game versus Garfield that went to triple overtime as his most memorable. The Parrots fell short by two points. Gonzalez played all four seasons under Bonino, in Frosh/soph, JV, and now varsity. Gonzalez plans on playing college basketball at Glendale.

Jennifer Hagan



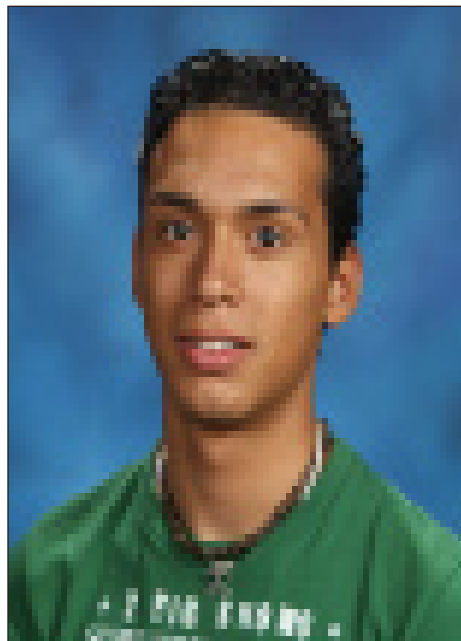
Jennifer Hagan helped lead the lady parrots to a 9-1 league record averaging 10.0 points per game and 6.6 rebounds per game. Hagan's best performance was versus Grant at home, where she scored 20 points on 5-three pointers to lead her team to a league win. "Yeah, that game was my best this season, the most memorable. Daily News came to talk to me," said Hagan. Hagan describes this season as her individual best and as the team's best since she's been here. Hagan plans on going to CSUN, and will continue to play basketball.

Terell Cable



Terell Cable starting running back for the Parrots carried the ball 170 times for Coach Scott Faer's squad this season, piling up a total of 1193 yards and 8 touchdowns. Cable recorded a season high 273 yards on 32 carries versus the Santee Falcons in the season opener. Cables' strong showing in the first game would continue with an excellent running game in the rest of the season. He played tough on the field and put in as much effort as he could. Cable was selected to the All-Star game, but was unavailable for comments.

Aaron Sanchez



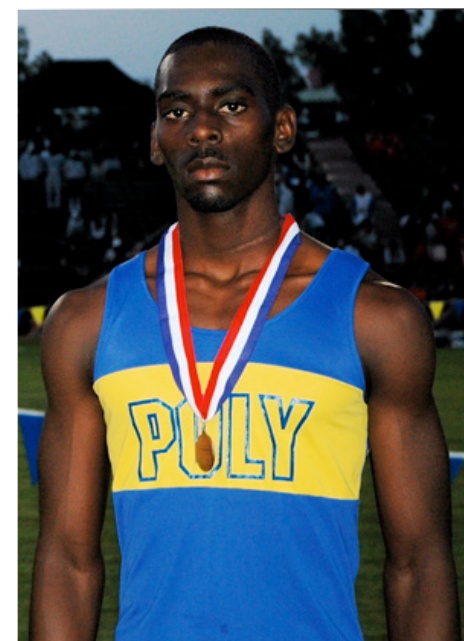
Aaron Sanchez played all four seasons under Coach Johannsen at outside hitter, dominating the Sunset Six League. "This season was definitely my personal best, and the team's best," said Sanchez, alluding to the Parrots' playoff run, where they reached the Invitational Finals versus Jordan High School. Sanchez recalls a victory against favorite San Pedro High School as his most memorable of the season, and he plans on playing college volleyball at College of the Canyons and then transferring to a four-year university.

Ivan Morales



Ivan Morales played tennis two seasons at Poly, but he fit right in, starting at the number 3 singles spot, and then moving up to the 2 spot, and even playing at the number 1 singles spot in the absence of Perry Nga. Morales helped Coach Block's team to a 5-5 record this season, coming up short of the playoffs by just one game. "It was exciting being in a winning team, and almost making the playoffs," said Morales. Morales plans on transferring to USC after attending a community college. He wants to continue playing tennis, but becoming a pro is not one of his goals.

Stallone Watson



Stallone Watson had a breakout season in 07-08. Watson competed in the 100-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles, and the long jump. Individually, Watson got to State Finals, and he placed 8th in the state in the 110-meter hurdles and 3rd in the 300-meter hurdles. "I had high expectation for this season, and I met them. I improved everything I wanted to improve. My goal was to make it to state," said Watson. Watson wants to continue running and continue with his education but he's undecided to where he wants to go. Watson's main goal is to go pro.

This Year In Sports

From baseball to track, volleyball to softball, and everywhere in between, Poly's year-round athletics captured.



Gifts for Grads History Teacher Does It All

By Michael Park
Staff Writer

Many will agree that one of the best gifts for a recent high school graduate bound for college is a sturdy, dependable laptop. But what would one look for in a laptop?

When looking for a laptop, the price is obviously important. Although performance is important and it would be nice to have the latest and “coolest” laptops, the budget may be a higher priority.

Typically, the lighter and thinner a laptop is the more expensive. That is because not only does thinner and lighter give it a sleek look, but more importantly it is easier to travel with.

Although thinner is better it is not necessarily best to have the smallest laptop. A screen size any smaller than 13” would make it difficult to watch clips of lectures (or movies), and would frustrate certain people when things become too small to read due to the screen resolution.

Wireless internet capability is a must. Without wireless internet access, no matter how fast or great looking the laptop is, it lacks convenience and becomes a burden.

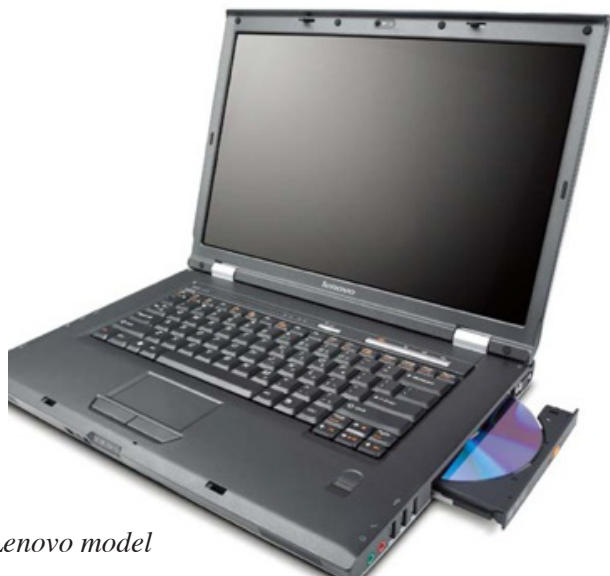
Battery life is also important, obviously the longer the better.

Most of the notebooks online are built for customization, and priced accordingly.

HP (Hewlett-Packard)’s dv2700 series offers a 14.1” 1280x800 widescreen display with a webcam and microphone with 120GB hard drive memory and the rest of the basic configuration for \$699.99.

Gateway has high performing notebooks with nice looks but the cheapest costs around \$1,000; however, it is also great for gaming and personal leisure, making up for its cost.

Dell offers a 14.1” 5.39 pound notebook with 1440x900 widescreen display and a 250GB hard drive and other basic configurations (without camera or microphone) for \$899.



Lenovo model

The Lenovo 3000 models cost between \$549-\$699 depending on hard drive memory and processing speed. Each variation of the models is great for working in college.



Macbook Air

The MacBook is durable and has good capabilities but costs more than the competitors. The MacBook Air has grabbed a lot of attention and is extremely small and portable, but it is relatively much more expensive, and due to its small size it has less memory and has poor battery life compared to its bigger opponents.

Teaching, music and food. This Poly teacher wraps them all into one interesting personality.

By Jocelyn Portales
Staff Writer

Juan Morillo, a history teacher, producer, manager of underground artists, restaurant owner, and family man can do it all.

“I did not expect myself to have these different career paths. They came along as I lived my life.”

Morillo has served the magnet Math and Science Program ever since the development of the magnet program.

Morillo is a UCLA graduate and received his B.A. in Political Science emphasizing in International Relations. Morillo also received his masters in education and a master in history.

Morillo is a Poly alumni and graduated in the late eighties. Morillo transitioned from Lima, Peru to America when he was sixteen years old.

Also, Morillo has participated in a panel of scholars for three days discussing about Globalization and the Performing Arts in prestigious universities such as Dartmouth, UCLA, and Yale University.

“I have traveled to several universities to attend sessions similar to this.”

Besides the academic side of Morillo, overall as in individual, Morillo has lived an interesting and fulfilling



Photo by Michael Obando

ALUMNI: Juan Morillo graduated from Poly in the eighties.

chapter in his life.

Morillo has traveled to all seven continents of the world to travel and explore different cultures.

Morillo has also crossed another different career path in his life: Music.

When Morillo attended UCLA, he participated in the UCLA center of the Performing Arts and from there, his development and interest in music commenced.

Morillo then pursued a career in music and became a producer and manager for many underground artists such as Peru Negro and Alex Acuna. Some of the artists and Morillo himself have been up

for 5 Grammy nominations.

Morillo has also been on television appearing at the Grammys and a Spanish daytime show called “Despierta America” touring with his underground artists.

Morillo is also the owner of “Lima,” a Peruvian cuisine restaurant in Tarzana serving upscale Peruvian dishes as featured in an article by Los Angeles Times.

“I have different dreams and ambitions far off from the ones I live today. I am content with my life as is and enjoy waking up everyday and going to work.”



Macbook Pro

The MacBook Pro is bigger and slightly heavier than the MacBook Air but is sturdy with great configuration. It is 1 inch thin, and can be chosen from 15” to 17” screen sizes but costs almost \$2,000. The trade-off for size is the amount and variety of programs. It comes loaded with features for the most hardcore business users and those looking for powerful digital image manipulation.



Toshiba

The Toshiba A215-S5829 model costs \$599.99 and runs windows Vista with 160GB of hard drive space.

Windows Vista is the newest Operatin System from Windows. It has upgradd security features and an all new fresh looking skin when navigating though the computer,

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly's Teacher of the Year 2007-2008 Kitt Heilbron is a C Track Social Studies teacher who brings history alive for her students while dressed up as Lady Liberty, and actively supported Poly's ASB Leadership.

Born in San Diego, California in 1959, Heilbron lived with her parents and three older sisters.

Heilbron went to high school in Orange County.

The Poly Community knows Heilbron as being very energetic, and sociable.

"I was the very same in my high school years," said Heilbron. "I was a B or C student, but I was very sociable."

Heilbron attended California State University Northridge for college.

Before being a teacher, Heilbron was a hotelier and manager of guest services for Marriot Corporation.



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

VOTED: Kitt Heilbron, Poly's Teacher of the year for 2008.

Heilbron then taught Social Studies at Mullholland Middle School in Reseda, California, where Poly's principal, Dr. Martinez, also worked.

"I actually had sights on working at Washington DC, but the job I would have had there was very isolated and since I am very sociable it's

not for me," said Heilbron. "My CSUN advisor told me that I would be better off as a college professor, but then again, I think I would make a difference in high school."

Heilbron has been teaching Social Studies at Poly for the past four years now, and was recently named Poly's Teacher

of the Year.

"I was really touched, I worked with fabulous teachers, and I was honored that my peers and students nominated me," said Heilbron. "My students and I have a love hate relationship, but I think it's not a thing of like because they must be getting something from what I do."

Along with Brian Le Clair, Heilbron is also in charge of Poly's ASB Leadership for the last three years.

"Leadership is an important element of high school in regards to the student government," said Heilbron.

According to Heilbron, the most important things about Poly are the love and support from the faculty, staff, custodians, the administration, and also the students.

"The students here at Poly are respectful," said Heilbron. "They are also aware that the teachers really care about them."

Heilbron wishes, however,

that some things at Poly could be improved.

"I hope that the student attendance here becomes better," said Heilbron, "but overall Poly is a wonderful school, and I love the feeling of community."

"I love being a teacher, maybe it's because I'm single that's why I am focused on teaching kids," said Heilbron. "Teachers sometimes ask if they are effective, and you can see that in their students."

In addition to working as a hotelier, and teaching for nine years, Heilbron always had a second job.

"I was a waitress for 25 years," said Heilbron. "I can say that I am a workaholic, but I have hobbies like hiking, watching the history channel, and I am also striving to be a better spiritual being."

Heilbron is currently studying Political Science classes at the University of California, Los Angeles.

COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

By Daisy De La Cruz
Staff Writer

Elaine Larson was presented with Poly's counselor of the year award at the Senior Awards night on Thursday May 8, 2008.

Larson is a B track counselor for 11th and 12th graders and has been part of the Poly community for 11 years.

Larson reflected on her own high school experiences as part of her inspiration to become a counselor.

"I did not have a good high school counselor and neither did my son so I wanted to make the difference to be available

to students and inspire them to go to college," said Larson.

Two friends who are mental health therapists encouraged Larson to go back to school and earn her masters degree, which ultimately led her to receiving counseling credential.

Larson was the first from six siblings to go to college and graduate. Larson attended El Camino Community College, and then transferred to complete her bachelors from the University of Minnesota, and her bachelors from the University of La Verne.

Larson began her career as an adult schoolteacher at Kennedy Community Adult

School.

Larson served as a special education teacher in the Antelope Valley before joining the Poly as a counselor.

Larson enjoys working with students as their counselor because it combines all of her past working experience into one job.

"Now with the addition of one more counselor," Larson said, "I now have more time with my students to encourage them to go to college or other training."

Larson is determined to retire soon, in the beautiful and affordable state of Washington where one of her sisters lives.



Photo by Michael Obando

COUNSELOR: Elaine Larson, B-Track Counselor.

Administrator of the Year



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

INTERIM PRINCIPAL: Gerardo Loera.

By Karinina Cruz & Maciel Luna
Staff Writers

Poly's Interim Principal Gerardo Loera has served the Poly community for over ten years.

Loera was born Los Angeles and grew up in Burbank, California.

Loera went to John Burroughs High School, and attended the University of California Los Angeles.

While in college, Loera sup-

ported himself by doing information Technology Consulting for small businesses.

Loera was one of the four Latino students that graduated from UCLA in 1997 with a BS degree in Math and Computer Science.

Loera then received his masters in Educational Leadership and Administration from California State University Los Angeles, and his teaching credentials at California State University Northridge.

During Loera's first year

working at Poly, he was a C-track Math Teacher.

After, Loera had different jobs at Poly including Technology Coordinator, Title-1 Coordinator, Assistant Principal in the Counseling Office, and lastly as the Interim principal after Dr. Fries-Martinez took a medical leave in September 2007.

Loera has two children, Alina 3 years old, and Diego 2 months old with wife Gladys.



Photo by Michael Obando

ARMFUL: Teacher and inventor Brenda Fishler showcases her product, Bottle Pets. Find Bottle Pets on lunchboxgoods.com.

Necessity Brings About Innovation

By Karinina Cruz & Flor De La Cruz
Staff Writers

Poly's Special Education Coordinator, Brenda Fishler, solves the problem for many mothers who struggle to keep their babies' bottles warm or cold.

Fishler's solution was called Bottle Pets.

Bottle Pets are baby bottle insulators that keep the content warm or cold.

The idea of making Bottle Pets came to Fishler when her daughter struggled to hold on to a baby bottle.

"I tied a sock around the bottle and it looked like a stuffed animal in which the baby could hold on to the legs," said Fishler. "The idea evolved from necessity."

Fishler was encouraged by business partner Heather Stone to patent the product.

"She was very resourceful, she helped with the whole manufacturing process," said Fishler.

The Bottle Pets were first patented in 2001.

Fishler patented the Bottle Pets a second time after adding a loop-hole which enabled the Pets to be attached to a stroller.

The process to get the Bottle Pets in the market involved manufacturing all the way from China.

However, Fishler's idea was stolen when business partner, Charlie Yin, took the product to a business meeting.

During the business meeting, helmet Lange and partner Lyle Berman of the World Poker Tour Company thought that the Bottle Pets was a great idea.

"When they met six months

later at another meeting, Berman had already created another bottle of his own called Bottle Love," said Fishler.

Berman's imitation of Fishler's product was being sold in the largest shopping center in the U.S. Mall of America in Minnesota.

In December of 2006 Fishler and Berman went to federal court.

"I fought a huge battle, and I lost most of my money," said Fishler.

Fishler won the case, and also gained Berman's patent, inventory and some monetary compensation.

Carters', one of the leading baby product manufacturers in the world, also attempted to sell Bottle Pets at Target without Fishler's permission. Fishler and Carter joined forces briefly and Bottle Pets sold for 2 years at Target.

Evenflo another baby bottle manufacturer, was quickly discouraged by Fishler to put a similar product on the market.

"I was afraid of putting my product on the market again after the case with Berman," said Fishler.

On May 5, 2007 Fishler signed a contract with Lunchbox Co. to endorse the Bottle Pets and put the Pets back on the market.

Bottle Pets are now sold at over 200 locations nationwide including Nordstrom.

The Bottle pets come in a variety of styles including a monkey, a turtle, a cow, a pig, an octopus and a panda.

The Bottle Pets have been featured on the Today Show several times including the most recent one on May 22, 2008.

Patterson Says Farewell to Poly

By Gabriela Burciaga and Ivan Verdin
Staff Writer

Kevin Patterson, choir director will be departing Poly high after 9 years of teaching choir.

"Having that type of privilege is an honor," said Patterson.

Although he will be missed by Poly, the Principal of Manual Arts, Ed Trimus is waiting for Patterson's reply to direct the school choir.

Patterson attended high school at West High in Torrance, California and earned his bachelor's degree in music at The California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, California.

Patterson's accomplishments throughout the years of teaching at Poly were the numerous entertainment performances the choir held annually including the Arts Showcase, Disneyland, Sherman Oaks Street Fair,



Photo by Ivan Verdin

LEAVING: Kevin Patterson bids Poly goodbye. He has been crucial in making Poly a powerhouse at choir competitions.

and competitions in Las Vegas. The Poly choir also received the top prize at every local festival they performed.

The choir participated in national competitions at San Diego, Las Vegas, Orlando,

Florida, San Francisco, and this year the competition was to be held in Hawaii.

The awards Poly choir received under Patterson's direction will remain at Poly.

New State Law Bans Cell Phone Use While Driving

By Gabriela Burciaga
Staff Writer

Attention all cell phone users!

As of July 1, 2008, two laws banning the use of handheld cell phone while operating a motor vehicle will take effect in California.

The first law prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle. The second law states that motorists 18 and over may only use a "hands-free device." Drivers under the age of 18 may NOT use a wireless telephone or hands-free device while operating a motor vehicle.

People who violate the laws will face a base fine of \$20 for the first offense and \$50 for each subsequent offense, plus any additional administrative fees imposed by the court. Motorists will not be given any grace period for warnings but will face fines first offense.

Drivers over 18 years of age are allowed to use a hands free cell phones while driving however the driver has to use either a Blue tooth or other earpieces, but cannot cover both ears.

Text messaging however, is not prohibited for a driver 18 and older. A police officer is allowed to stop a driver if they see that the driver is being distracted.

There are exemptions to allow drivers to use hand-held wireless phones to contact emergency services.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the legislation September 2007, in order to protect public safety and to prevent distractions from any hand-held devices by drivers.

The California Highway Patrol Public Relations office warns that, "Wireless telephones are but one cause of distracted driving. Operating

a motor vehicle requires the full-time attention of the driver and both hands on the wheel. Many things cause distractions if the driver allows it. The consequences of diverting your attention for even a moment can be devastating."

The law passed is due to the frequent accidents occurring in California.

"The new cell phone law will save many teens life's," said Poly 17 year old student Carlos Rodrigues.

Overall many Poly students assume that the new California cell phone law will make their lives safer.

Additional states barring the use of handheld mobile phones while driving are Connecticut, the District of Columbia, New Jersey, and New York.

For more information on the new cell phone law, see HR.BLR.com's Cell Phone Laws & Policies Center.

Site: www.csumb.edu/site

Aspiring Poly Chef Wins Scholarships

By Daysi De La Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly Parrot Jacqueline Rosales brought home many helpful culinary tips along with three scholarships worth \$1,200 competing in the 14th annual Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) competition.

"I learned many helpful pointers from many executive chefs," said Rosales.

The challenge for Rosales's final was preparing a perfect main dish of Hunters Chicken with Sautéed Potatoes and delicious crepes as dessert.

A total of 28 finalists from 28 different Los Angeles public schools competed against Rosales at The Art Institute of California in Santa Monica on Friday May 30th, 2008.

"I think she did a lot better than other students,"

said Higgins. "She was calm throughout the whole event even when somebody stole one her ingredients."

Rosales has taken the Culinary Arts class for the last 3 years and is the president and co founder of one of Poly's newest clubs, The Cooking Club.

Rosales will use her scholarships to pay her education at Glendale Community College and eventually transfer to a prestigious culinary art school.

Rosales aspires to become a pastry chef and open her own bakery here in the San Fernando Valley. She would also like to become an executive chef at a popular hotel in the Las Vegas strip.

For all those students who are looking into culinary arts as a career Rosales says, "You need patience, dedication and most of all, a passion for food."



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

SAVING LIVES ONE PINT AT A TIME: Student donates at last Blood Drive of the year.

Blood Donated In Honor of Florian

By Su Kang
Staff Writer

Poly students continue to save lives by donating blood through Poly's annual blood drives.

UCLA Community Liaison Blood and Platelet Center's Deborah Alter said, "The past 3 years Poly collected the most blood of any school in the LA area."

In order to donate blood, students need to be 17 years of age, or older. Students

cannot donate blood if they have taken any prescription pills in the past month, and have had a piercing or tattoo within the last 12 months.

"This blood drive was the biggest one that we have ever had," said Leadership Sponsor Brian Le Clair. "Most other schools gave 70 or 80 units of blood, but we made double."

People can give one unit of blood, which can save three lives.

"I feel that donating blood

will help out more than if I would just volunteer somewhere," said Senior Jonathan Depaz. This year 818 units of blood have been collected, offering the potential to save 2,454 lives.

"It feel's so good to help someone, and it's a great thing to save others lives," said Senior Yessenia Diaz.

Poly's next Blood Drive will be on August 11th, 2008.

Student Returns Home

By Belle Tadena
Staff Writer

Poly Senior Su Kyung Kang immigrated to California with her family July of 2002 from Seoul, South Korea.

"I came to America to learn English," said Kang, "It was hard for me to interact with people and talk to them in English."

Kang was excited to travel to new land. "After I landed, I saw people from various ethnicities, which I thought was really cool," Kang said.

"Everything's much stricter in Korea. So I found it weird for people to hug each other a lot," Kang said, "In Korea, people have to be respectful to those older than they, even if it's only a year difference. Here people are just cool with each other."



Photo by Michael Obando

DEPARTING: Senior Su Kang will be returning to Korea.

Korean schools pass strict dress codes, like no dyed hair, no facial piercings, hair length is limited for men, etc. Students must also wear uniforms.

"It's just how things were," said Kang. "It's what everyone grew up with, so it wasn't questioned."

Schools in Korea are active six days, Monday through Saturday. When school year begins, administrators assign students to one classroom.

Students do not switch classrooms for each class. Instead, the teachers enter and exit classrooms.

"You get a chance to

really get closer to your classmates," said Kang.

Students in South Korea clean their classroom every day, despite having custodians which teaches responsibility.

"Among other things, I thought it was cool that I can wear earrings to school," said Kang.

While attending Poly, Kang joined many extracurricular activities. She is active in The Optimist, Leadership, Piano Club, and School Side Council.

"I learned self-confidence, became more motivated, and more responsible," said Kang.



Photo by Ivan Verdin

CULINARY ARTS: Jacqueline Rosales won three scholarships for her cooking abilities at the 14th annual Careers through Culinary Arts Program competition.

Poly Athletic Director Recognized

By Bayzig Manougian
Staff Writer

Poly's Athletic Director Kim McEwen received a Hall of Fame award from the Coaches of Los Angeles Women's Sports (CLAWS) on June 7, 2008.

"Since 8th grade I wanted to be a teacher so I was pretty fortunate to know what I wanted to do throughout high school," McEwen said.

Inspired by her middle school teachers, McEwen was drawn to teaching and prepared for that career path in high school.

"Teachers that I had in middle school really inspired me in my career because I saw that they loved being around kids and loved their job," McEwen said.

McEwen began 10th grade at Verdugo Hills High School in 1972, when women sports programs were first funded by the Title IX program.



Photo provided by Kim McEwen

ACHIEVEMENT: Kim McEwen honored in Coaches Hall of Fame.

Title IX was a federal legislation that required schools to provide equal sports programs and opportunities to girls as well as boys.

"My first year in high school was when organized sports for girls began," said McEwen.

"The first women coaches got paid one tenth

of what male coaches got, and we never got to play in the "Big Gym"."

McEwen, an athlete herself, played volleyball, basketball, soccer, and tennis.

McEwen graduated from Verdugo High school, and went to Valley College, Chico State, and Cal State Northridge where she

started off pursuing her dream.

McEwen has been at Poly for the past 20 years and coached varsity and junior varsity basketball for eight years, volleyball for five years, and varsity softball for nine years.

She was in charge of determining student athlete eligibility for sports.

McEwen was also a UTLA (United Teachers of Los Angeles) coach chapter chairperson for five years.

McEwen served as the vice-chair of the inter-scholastic-athletic commission.

When asked what McEwen missed most about coaching, her response was, "As a coach, I had a close relationship with students so I miss that."

Currently, as athletic director of 12 years McEwen said, "I've always been an advocate for girls in sports, I continue to fight for equal opportunities for girls when it comes to budget, gym, field use, and coaches. We all have equal rights here at Poly."

McEwen added, "The list of women who have received this award in the past is simply amazing. Some of them have been mentors of mine and I'm so honored to be in their company."

Sports of 2007-2008

By Daniel Jimenez
Staff Writer

Boys

Basketball

David Bonino's first year as head coach was rough, following in former Head Coach Brad Katz and DJ Gay's success of the 06-07 season. The Parrots turned up a 4-6 league record and a 10-18 overall record, good enough for just fourth place in the Sunset Six League. Alberto Aranda led the team in scoring with 10.3 per game, and Antonio Gutierrez averaged 4.9 assists, and 2.4 steals to lead the Parrots.

Baseball

Chuck Schwal capped off yet another successful season as the Boys varsity Baseball Coach with an 11-4 league record, and an 18-13 overall record in the 07-08 season. His squad got off to a slow start, but carried a six game winning streak into the playoffs, where they lost to the Chatsworth Chancellors 1-0.

Football

Scott Faer and Dave Bonino have something to talk about: how tough it is to come in as a first year Head Coach in win. Faer posted a 1-5 league record and a 3-7 overall record this year, their only win coming from a forfeit by Van Nuys. Senior Terell Cable ran for 1,193 yards and 8 touchdowns this season, averaging 7.0 yards per carry.

Volleyball

The Boys varsity Volleyball team had a run to remember this season, reaching the Invitational Finals but coming up short to Jordan High School. The boys sported a 5-5 league record and fought their way into the playoffs by beating undefeated powerhouse Van Nuys at home.

Tennis

It's a trend: new head coaches at Poly! This time it was Coach Brian Block, leading the Boys Tennis team to a 5-5 league record, and coming up shy of making the playoffs. The Parrots were tied for second place with three other schools in the Sunset Six League, and lost the tiebreaker. Number 1 singles Perry Nga, and number 1 doubles Billy Song and Kyle Abrigo earned bids to the Invitational Tournament.

Track and Field

The Track and Field team finished the season with an undefeated 7-0 record. Stallone Watson made the postseason, competing in the 100-meter dash, the 110-meter hurdles, the 300-meter hurdles, and the long jump. Watson placed 8th in the state in the 110-meter race, and 3rd in the 300-meter race.

Girls

Basketball

The Lady Parrots dominated the Sunset Six League once more, losing only the first game of the season at Grant, and bouncing right back to win nine consecutive games. Led by Sara Villanueva's 17.0 points, and 4.9 assists per game, Head Coach Tremeka Batiste's squad made their way to the playoffs as Sunset Six Champs, but lost in the first round to the Wilson Mules of Los Angeles.

Softball

The Ladies varsity Softball team posted a 9-1 league record on their way to another playoff bid, where they made the best of their opportunity by going deep into the postseason for the fourth straight year under Head Coach Manny Peralta. Sophomore Sylvette Rodriguez batted .549, scored 31 runs, and hammered four home runs to led the Lady Parrots this season.

Volleyball

The Girls Volleyball team led by outside hitter Yanina Linares and setter Patty Moreno reached the Invitational Semifinals, where they lost to rival Dons of Verdugo. The Ladies posted a 4-6 league record, and a 6-7 overall record.